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THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—" Yes, Sir, we will try to find employment for them."

*Relief measures for the unemployed ex-tappers.*

* 73 Q.—SRI K. SURYANARAYANA : Will the Hon. the **Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—**

**(a) the number of ex-tappers in the districts of East Godavari and West Godavari who were thrown out of employment; and**

**(b) the relief measures taken by the Government for the unemployed ex-tappers?**

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—

" (a) The number of ex-tappers in the districts of East Godavari and West Godavari who were thrown out of employment is as follows :—

East Godavari—11,776.

West Godavari—12,000.

" (b) To provide the ex-tappers with alternate employment, Government permitted the tapping of palm juice for the manufacture of jaggery on a co-operative basis and jaggery manufacturing societies were organized almost throughout the State. In view of the potentialities of palm gur industry to provide work to the ex-tappers, the staff of the Co-operative Department have launched a scheme for giving State-wide training to the ex-tapper members of jaggery manufacturing co-operative societies in the improved method of production of jaggery and for introducing the industry in the areas where the ex-tappers were not quite familiar with it. Government have sanctioned a subsidy of Rs. 10,000 to be distributed to ex-tappers towards half the cost of the gur-making implements purchased by them. With a view to enable the ex-tappers who are members of palm jaggery societies to take to dairying as a subsidiary occupation, interest-free loans from Government for the purchase of milch animals were permitted to be given to them. In addition to jaggery manufacturing co-operative societies, milk-supply co-operative societies, land colonization co-operative societies, cottage industries societies, tenants' co-operative societies, labour contract societies and other special types of societies were formed to provide ex-tappers with employment through them. The cultivable waste poramboke and lanka lands are also assigned to the deserving tappers through co-operative societies wherever feasible. They were also trained in hand-spinning and admitted as members of khadi development co-operative society to enable them to pursue the industry. Steps were also taken to provide work to the ex-tappers in other modes of employment as unskilled workers in industrial concerns as peons, watchmen, etc., in Government and other institutions and as gang coolies, chowkidars, etc."

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SRI K. SURYANARAYANA :—" I wish to submit that the figures provided by the Government do not tally with the actual figures. Therefore, will the Government be pleased to make further enquiries to ascertain the number of ex-tappers still unemployed? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" I cannot admit that it is wrong; it may vary from month to month but if the hon. Member desires, the matter will be further investigated and figures obtained."

SRI K. SURYANARAYANA :—" I still assert that the number of ex-tappers still unemployed is larger. Will the Government, therefore, permit the ex-tappers who are still unemployed to sell neera up to 10 a.m. as is being done in some parts of the State? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" Yes, Sir. As an experimental measure the tapping of neera for consumption will be allowed in certain places where the local officers and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies recommend it and if such sales are found to be popular and there is no scope for abuse, more neera sales will be allowed."

SRI K. SURYANARAYANA :—" In view of the fact that the number of ex-tappers in the Circars districts is heavy, will the Government consider the introduction of the sale of neera in those districts? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" I think, Sir, I have already answered this point."

*Minimum rates of wages for the Public Health and other establishments of municipalities.*

* 74 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether minimum rates of wages have been fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, in respect of the Public Health staff and the water-supply and drainage establishments under the municipal councils;

(*b*) whether these rates compare favourably with the existing rates of wages for the above categories of municipal servants; and

(*c*) whether the Municipal Councils have introduced the new rates and if so, from what date?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.
Grades I and II—Rs. 25.
Rest—Rs. 40.

" (*b*) The staff under the water-supply and drainage establishment is now getting more pay than the all-inclusive minimum rates of wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act. In the case of Public Health Establishment, the staff other than the menials are getting more pay than the all-inclusive minimum rates of wages. The pay of menials under the